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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

March 12, 2008

To: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Jeremy Fischer, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Senator Elizabeth Schneider, Senate Chair
Representative Christopher Barstow, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Re: Recommendations on the change package to the budget

The State and Local Government Committee met to deliberate on the change package to the Governor's Supplemental Budget on March 12th 2008. As you know, the majority of the change package had already been submitted by the departments within our jurisdiction and approved by the Committee. The Committee was unanimous of those present to accept the remaining new items in the change package along with one addition.

The Committee requests that the appropriation for the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services be reduced by \$250,000 for the first year of the biennium and by \$500,000 in the second year of the biennium. The State and Local Government Committee is a strong supporter of the Fund and making this recommendation represents a very difficult sacrifice. The Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services is an important tool for municipalities, counties and other units of government working to provide improved services in a collaborative manner at lower costs. We support the continued existence of the Fund. In particular, we do not want the Fund to be reduced to \$0 in the current year, especially given that communities that have already invested time and effort into the application process this year. They should remain eligible for grant money.

This recommendation would result in additional savings of \$750,000 in addition to General Fund savings of \$3,328,261 over the biennium. This Committee has gone beyond the targets for savings that we were set. We request that the additional savings we have recommended be applied to social services.

Members present were Senators Schneider and Benoit, and Representatives Barstow, Beaudette, Schatz, Boland, Sirois, Joy, Curtis and Weaver.

cc: Pat Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Maureen Dawson, Principal Analyst, OFPR